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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Creation of a Low
Power Radio Service

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CC Docket No. 99-25

REPLY COMMENTS OF
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Submitted,

September 3, 1999

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ALA reply comments - MM Docket No. 99-25
In the Matter of Creation of a Low Power Radio Service
September 3, 1999

1. INTRODUCTION

The American Library Association (ALA) respectfully submits these Reply Comments to elaborate on and clarify points that have been raised previously in our comments and those of the other filers regarding the above referenced proceeding. In its original set of comments, filed August 2, 1999, ALA:

- Applauded and supported, in principle, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposal to create low power FM radio (LPFM) and microradio services.
- Noted our strong tradition as a supporter of the principles related to increasing and improving access to information, community access to the media, and diversity of voices and services in media.
- Voiced our concern that the radio market appears to be decreasing in local control and locally originated radio programming, and that there are fewer independent commercial radio stations.
- Opined that LPFM may offset trends which indicate decreasing local access to radio broadcasting by providing access for all types of libraries, especially if some of the LPFM stations are noncommercial educational broadcasting stations. And that libraries, therefore, would be applicants for LPFM licenses and/or contributors to programming.
- Viewed LPFM as another means to extend the traditional library role of providing access to information and to extend library services in new and innovative ways to currently served, as well as, underserved populations. The underserved populations include the visually impaired and persons who are home-bound.

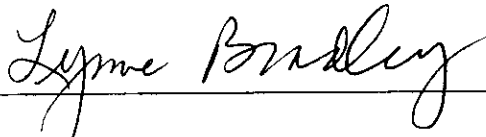
2. **Based on a review of other comments filed in this matter, certain concerns and conclusions warrant reply.**

- ALA is concerned that the signals for existing radio reading services for the visually impaired and similar services may experience interference due to certain LPFM signals. Listeners to radio reading services and similar services depend on these broadcasts and should be assured that these services will continue. We, therefore recommend reviewing the potential for LPFM interference with radio services to the visually impaired and ensuring continued provision of the services through measures such as frequency set asides, signal protection/preservation, and/or other appropriate measures.
- Diversity in ownership and programming continue to diminish in broadcasting, as indicated in the statistics presented and cited in the Comments of Civil Rights Organizations dated August 2, 1999. Low power

FM radio is one of the options that should be considered in addressing the critical issue of diversity in media – an issue that goes to the heart of democracy and equal access in the media driven Information Age.

The American Library Association thanks the Commission for its time and stands ready to assist in whatever way it can in the coming proceeding.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynne Bradley", positioned above a horizontal line.

Lynne Bradley
Acting Executive Director
American Library Association Washington Office
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 403
Washington, DC 20004

September 3, 1999